

Porto Rico's Christmas

Few Stockings—No Chimneys

Christmas for the Americans in Porto Rico is pretty much the same, so far as the observance of the day is concerned, as Christmas at home or anywhere else.

The chief difference is in those characteristics of the season that are due to or are influenced by the weather, which more nearly resembles that of the Fourth of July than a winter holiday.

There is the same spirit of good feeling, the same cheery greeting, the same happy experience for the little people in the shape of gifts from Santa Claus and that same more or less sincere determination on the part of their elders to forgive their enemies—which sometimes they do.

Among the natives Christmas day is a church holiday only, and it is very generally observed by them as such. But it is not the occasion of family reunions; nor the day of gifts, as with us.

The Porto Rican family gatherings occur and their Santa Claus makes his appearance on the 6th of January—"El día de los Reyes," or "the day of the kings," commemorating the bringing of gifts to the infant Christ—but Kris Kringle manifestly does not come down the chimney for the very good reason that there are no chimneys to Porto Rican houses, and for equally obvious reasons he does not bring his reindeer nor his sleigh.

Instead of hanging up their stockings the native children prepare a box filled with grass to represent a manger and place it outside their doors on the night of the 5th of January, just as the little Dutch children in Holland put out their wooden shoes.

Christmas will always be a church holiday to the natives, and El día de los Reyes will also probably always be observed by them. But the Porto Rican is quick to pick up American



THE CHILDREN PREPARE A BOX TO REPRESENT A MANGER.

Ideas, and the observance of Christmas day is yearly taking on more of an American character.

One evidence of this is the growing custom, so common in the southern states especially, of evidencing one's appreciation of the occasion by the free use of tin horns and other agencies for the production of noises.

The first intimation one usually receives that the day has arrived is the result of an enthusiastic and determined attempt about 3 a. m. on the part of a native youngster to blow his lungs out through the small end of a tin horn, and his enthusiasm is in direct proportion to the size of his horn.

But as the old adage has it, "the better the day the better the deed," and the tin horn is only another expression of the time honored sentiment "Merry Christmas to you all."—Army and Navy Life.

Brother Dickey on Christmas.

Day say hit is better ter give dan ter receive, but I wants ter put my friends on notice dat I been 'p'inted ter be a receiver 'twell after Chris'mus.

De Chris'mus turkey roos' mighty high, but by de blessin' er Providence some er us got a mighty long reach.

He dat give ter de po' lends ter de Lawd, but in dat case some folks think dey'll hatter wait too long ter git dey money back.

Hit don't take much ter make de wool' happy, but mos' folks fin' it mighty hard ter spare even dat much. —Atlanta Constitution.

Peculiarity of Mistletoe.

An interesting item regarding the mistletoe is that it is the only plant whose roots refuse to shoot in the ground, a peculiarity possessed by no other parasite. It is found on the fir, the lime and the apple tree as well as on the oak.

The Woman of It.

Mrs. Dorcas—What was the first thing she did when she got the Christmas present?

Dorcas—Went to the store to find out what it cost.

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Merry Christmas

Is Our Greeting to Our Many Friends and Patrons and We Wish You All a Happy New Year, Too.



WHY not a gift for the Home? Isn't it the most sensible purchase for you, Mr. and Mrs. Housekeeper? Your home is your castle, and its comforts are its chief charms; so why not a new rug, a cosy chair for the sitting room, a pretty table for the parlor, a couch for the den, a writing desk, or a hundred and one other articles.

An Elegant Iron Bed.

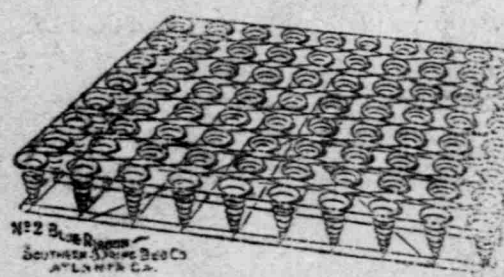
This is our special Iron Bed with 1½ inch iron tubing, with three coats of baked enamel—Xmas special for

\$16.50

\$1 down and \$1 a week.



This is the Spring

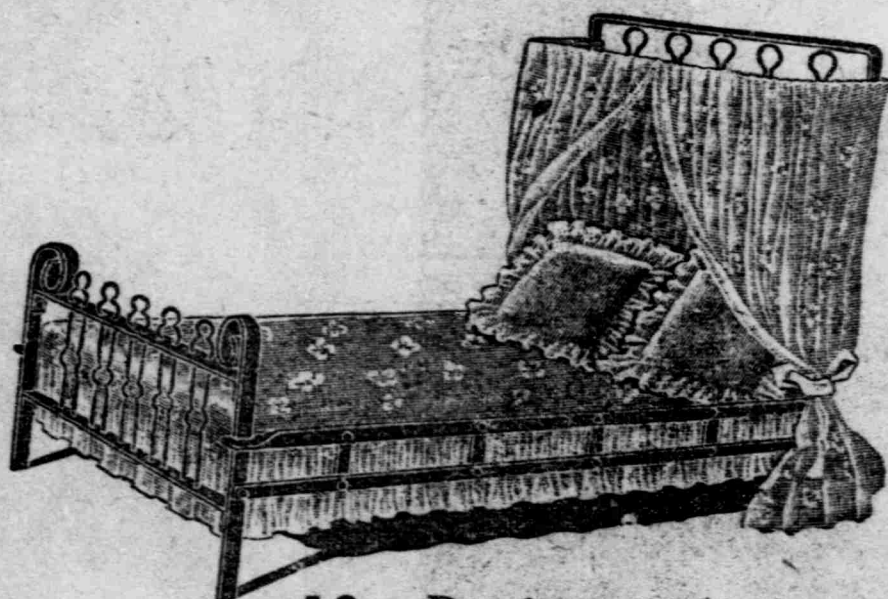


that you have heard so much about. Guaranteed to hold any weight person, 80 coils—

\$5.00

\$1 down, \$1 per week.

STILLMAN'S Special Brass Doll Beds.

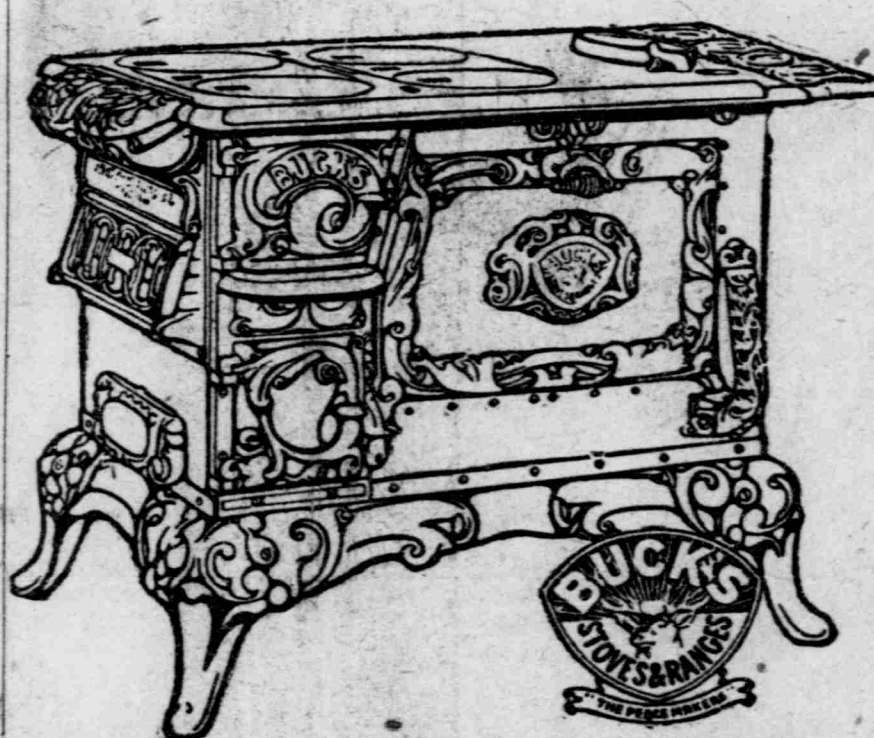


49c Regular value \$1.00. Exactly like cut.

This Doll Bed is 18 inches long, 11 inches wide and 15 inches high. It is made of neatly bent brass rods. It has two pillows and canopy top. All draperies and coverings are made of beautiful flowered Cretonne. Can be folded perfectly flat, and each bed is packed in a neat box. Just the thing for the little girl's Christmas gift.

Special—Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 49 cents

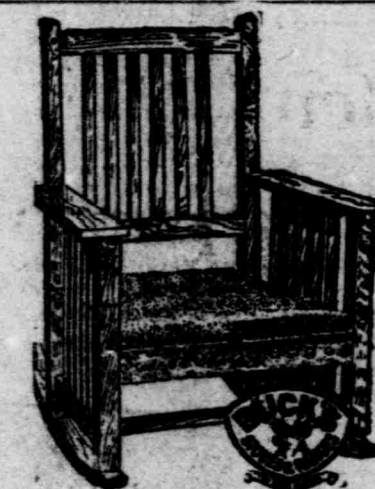
STEEL STOVES.



This handsome little Steel Stove, lined on all sides with asbestos, over 16x18, just the thing for a small family, only

\$28.00

\$1 Down and \$1 a Week.



A Large, Roomy

Rocker

An Excellent Library Chair for

\$12

\$1.00 Cash, \$1.00 a Week.

DINING TABLES

42x42-inch top, 4-inch legs, will extend to 6 feet in length—a wonderful value—



Special—

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\$1.00 Cash, \$1.00 a Week

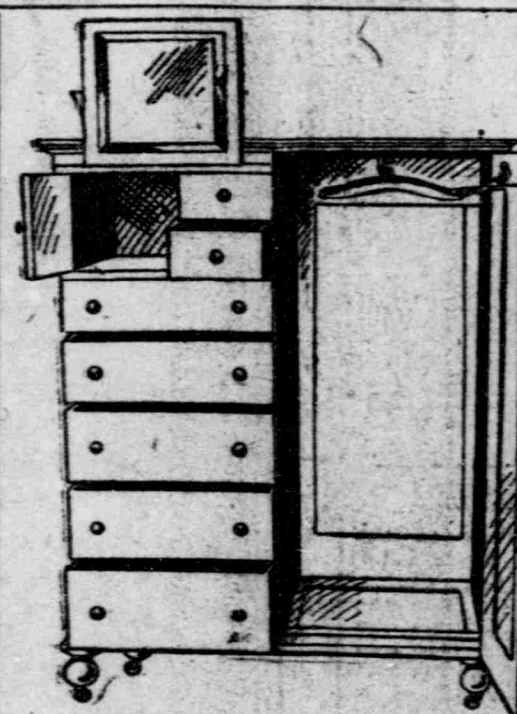
Handsome Chifforobe

This handsome CHIFFOROB in either oak or mahogany, only

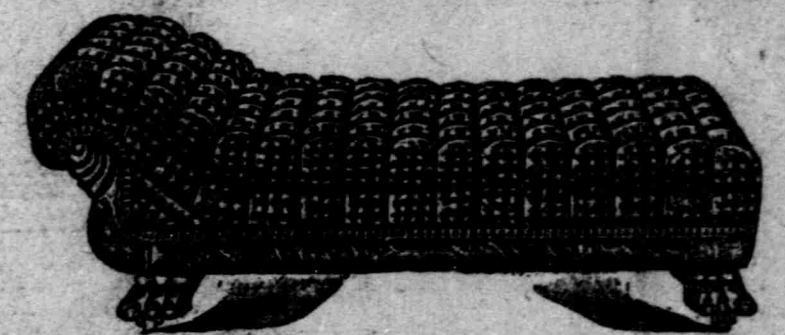
\$49.50

\$5.00 Cash,

\$1.00 a Week



COUCHES.



A good COUCH is always an enjoyable luxury, and the one we are showing here is a very fine piece of Furniture. The spring-work is of the highest order and the upholstery is of the best fabricoid leather—

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RHODES-FUTCH-